



Lancer Report



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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joy Pariante, 13th Public Affairs Det.

Lt. Col. Troy Smith, commander, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, engages a local sheik in Gumruk May 4. See additional photos on Page 5.

Unit updates from Lancer 6

By Lt. Col. Troy Smith
Commander

To the Lancer Family,

First, let me express how tremendously proud and honored we are to be serving with the troopers of this squadron. Our troopers continue to amaze us with the poise and confidence found only in the best of the best – cavalry scouts.

I would be remiss if I did not give a hardy thanks to the Soldiers and leaders of 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment (Task

Force Iron Knight) for a first class transition into our assigned area of operation – they have clearly set us up for success.

We are almost a week into combat operations and the Lancers are already having a positive impact on the security posture of the local populace. The troops have done a tremendous job in setting the base for security, and working side by side with our Iraqi Security Forces, the troopers are quickly gaining the trust and confidence of the local populace as well as developing mutual trust

and partnerships with the Iraqi Army and Police.

In an effort to build capacity and trust in the local government, the squadron focused our engagements on the local Nahia (town) and Qada (province) leaders. This enabled the Squadron to establish priorities of work and buy-in with the local Iraqi leaders and furthermore capitalize on their influence in our area of operation.

We held several Nahia meetings and conducted a Qada meeting with all the Nahia council members.

The success of the Squadron will not be without some set-backs as there are still those that wish to see democracy fail in Iraq. However, I am confident that coupled with the strong will of our Cav troopers and the desire for liberty, evident in the vast majority of Iraqi citizens, we will prevail.

Some highlights to date from our Lancer

Troopers:

Ghost Troop executed an Air Assault operation resulting in the capture of a

See LANCER 6, Page 6

Being the best Soldiers you can be

By Command Sgt. Maj.
Russell Reimers
Command Sergeant Major

I would first like to say to Team Lancer that I am proud to be aboard with you all in this fine unit and look forward to future endeavors we will share together.

Currently, as I write this,

we are in the field conducting our maneuver evaluations with the brigade. Of course it rained the first day, but that is what makes the experience more memorable. Hard and realistic training is what it's all about for survival on the battlefield. As most of us know, combat is brutal and

unforgiving. Since this is our chosen profession, I personally charge each and every one of you to enforce the standards of our unit that clearly separates us from our enemies. If we cannot be disciplined ourselves, how will we be able to impose our will on our foe?

Walking through the Squadron Motor Pool area, I am pleased with the motivation most of you are exuding. No matter the conditions, you all are proving your merit as you continue to take the fight to the enemy.

See LANCER 7, Page 6

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7-10 in action - Al Qaim



Top: Soldiers from Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment prepare to patrol the town of Al-Qaim on May 3.

Above: A Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment Soldier provides security in Al-Qaim on May 3.

Right: A Soldier from Troop B, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment stands watch in Al Qaim May 3.

Photos by Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk
13th Public Affairs Detachment

7-10 Cav control rioting in Al Batha



Top: Soldiers from Troop A, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division control rioters in Al Batha May 3.

Above: A local national carries an anti-American protest sign during a demonstration in Al Batha May 3.

Right: Soldiers of Troop A, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division detain a rioter after he came too close to their entry control point during a riot in Al Batha May 3.

Photos by

Spc. David Hodge

1st BCT PAO



7-10 Cav in action - Gumruk



Photos by
Sgt. Joy Pariante
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Left: A Soldier from Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment provides security in the hallway of a building in Gumruk on May 5.

Right: An Iraqi Army Soldier secures the staircase while searching a building in Gumruk for weapons and insurgents on May 5.

Below: Soldiers from Troop C, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment call in their finds after a building search in Gumruk on May 5. The search turned up insurgent propaganda.



LANCER 6, from Page 2

Sunni mortar team responsible for the increased indirect fire attacks on Gumruk. In Al Batha, they captured a large weapons cache consisting of improvised explosive devices, mortar rounds, and mortar tubes.

Additionally Ghost Troopers conducted a cordon and search to protect the sheik of Al Batha village from an assassination attempt by an Al Qaeda Iraq sniper team.

Bulldog Troop captured a senior leader of a Jaysh al-Mahdi cell in Al Qaim. This cell leader was responsible for financing and arranging kidnappings in order to ransom civilians. Bulldog Troopers have also destroyed three mortar teams responsible for sectarian violence between Gumruk and Al Qaim. Their efforts in protection and securing the civilians of Al Qaim have moved us closer and closer to our efforts to secure the population.

Comanche Troop continues to

work through, by and with the leaders of Gumruk to aid them in effective governance of the people of the village. Comanche leaders and Soldiers have attended Nahia meetings and advised the local sheik on local governance techniques in the Nahia. Their efforts have greatly stemmed the sectarian violence in and around Gumruk. Troop C executed a cordon and search of a possible insurgent safe house which resulted in the capture of the Gumruk AQI cell leader and three mortar systems. Their success furthers our efforts to secure the population and gain intelligence on other insurgent cells in the area of operations.

Headhunter Troop, in addition to supporting command and control of the Squadron, conducted two operations to provide medical support to local civilians in Al Qiam and Al Batha. These operations provided much needed medical supplies and assistance to the population of these impoverished areas.

Dragon Troop conducted logistical operations supporting three decentralized patrol bases, providing Soldiers with their everyday supply needs of food, water, gas, and ammunition. The Dragon Troopers were also critical in the extraction of a Bulldog air assault team that was forced to exfiltrate from a remote objective by ground after their helicopters were weathered out.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the families and volunteers for all your thoughts and prayers, and the support you continue to provide the troopers of this Squadron. We could not do this without you and in our hearts and minds - you are our true heroes. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you and all our 7-10 Cav troopers.

Toward the Enemy!

Lancer 6

LANCER 7, from Page 2

Recognition is important in the military. It breeds pride in the unit and cohesion. As Napoleon once stated "Give me three yards of ribbon (awards) and I'll conquer the world". Believe in Soldier recognition. Volunteers in general do not volunteer for high praise or accolades, but for the enjoyment or fulfillment of doing the task. Remember, you are all volunteers in the U.S. Army and I would like you to think about that. However, in saying that, when you see Spc. Kevin Curry from Troop A, congratulate him on representing you all on his time off by volunteering personal time to instruct riding for families at the stables at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area.

So many Soldiers are accomplishing

a lot out in the field. There are Soldiers who will not get recognized for their feats as there is not enough observer/controller coverage. What they do get is the confidence instilled in them by their immediate supervisors knowing that they will choose the hard right over the easy wrong even when no one is watching. This is devotion to duty.

As you got out onto the battlefield whether by tracked vehicle, wheeled vehicle and now rotary winged aircraft, keep in mind these are just platforms to get you to the enemy. You still have your personal weapon to close with and destroy them. Stay focused!

Closing thought, once again combat is brutal and unforgiving. Just because there are no scars, does not mean there

were no wounds. Take a good look at yourselves and your buddies. If you think they might have an issue, help them out and inform your chain of command.

Psychiatrists say the magic month to be well is six months after the fact. That means for most of you June is your 'safe' month. I encourage you to seek help if you need it. Once post traumatic stress disorder is displayed, it can lead to an abnormal lifestyle. I just found out that my Dad was recently diagnosed and that was what was causing his grief. So, get checked out even if you think you might need it, it doesn't hurt and will only help. *Lancers!*

Lancer 7

Water pumps are on the way

Story and photos by Pfc. Adam Blazak

13th Public Affairs Det.

U.S. forces met with local village leaders for a Nahia meeting May 6 on the outskirts of Gumruk, Iraq. Issues addressed at the meeting included lack of water, food, medical supplies and security for the villages.

Lt. Col. Troy A. Smith, commander, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division represented U.S. and Coalition Forces during the meeting.

“The Iraqi Government is responsible for providing infrastructure,” he said.

While the Qada chairman was not present, Smith still addressed the concerns of the village elders.

Leaders were primarily concerned about the lack of water available to their villages. Currently there are water pumps which are not operable.

“The government has appropriated the funds and you will get the water pumps,” he said.

Regarding the security situation in the region, Smith urged the leaders to use their voice to end the violence. “You need to use your influence to provide security in your area of operation,” he said.

Even though the Qada chairman was absent, the meeting still provided a chance for both sides to develop a better relationship. “It’s important to Iraqis to develop working relationships with our forces,” said Staff Sgt. Carmen R. Centennial, noncommissioned officer in charge of security for the meeting.



Lt. Col. Troy A. Smith commander, 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division speaks to village elders during a Nahia meeting, which addressed the needs of the area villages.

“They control the good and bad that happens here in Iraq.”

These types of meetings provide

U.S. forces with information about insurgent forces in the area acting against us, Centennial said.